Apple II Video Overlay Card: Product Description (11/96)

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TOPIC ---

Below is a description of the Apple II Video Overlay Card. This product has
been discontinued and is no longer available from Apple.

DISCUSSION --

The Apple II Video Overlay Card product, for the Apple IIe and Apple IIGS,
includes an interface card and VideoMix software.

When in operation, the overlay appears as a computer image on top of a video
image. The video image can be from any external video source: video tape, video
disc, cable television, or video camera and the image can be shown on either a
composite or RGB monitor. The NTSC signal output from the overlay card is of
broadcast quality and can be recorded on a VCR.

The Apple II Video Overlay Card brings previously expensive genlock capabilities
to the Apple II family of computers, and creates new possibilities for learning
and creativity.

The overlay card has a complete, though modified, Apple IIGS graphics subsystem
(Mega II, VGC, and supporting circuitry), which provides genlock and overlay
capabilities, as well as improved composite video output. With a proper NTSC
signal presented to the card, an FCC-legal output is supplied from the card,
therefore the card is usable in professional broadcast environments.

After genlocking to the incoming signal, the overlay card determines which
pixels will be video and which will be graphics, or if there will be
combinations. These combinations are selected by way of the VideoMix software,
which sets up the card for the desired mix of graphics and video. The user
chooses a key color (the color that is transparent to the incoming video and is
treated separately from the other colors), and what the video/graphic mix will
be. VideoMix also allows the user to adjust the tint and color of the RGB video,

as on a color television. The user can also choose a color from the screen to be the key color.

Because the overlay card is a completely independent subsystem, it functions with any existing Apple II painting, drawing, and animation software -- these being the more relevant products conducive to creating overlays. The overlay card works with virtually all Apple II software.

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